

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/126,622

Examiner

Carramah J. Quiett

Applicant(s)

CORMAC HERLEY

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/04/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-17, 19-25, and 27-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment(s), filed on 01/04/2006, have been entered and made of record. Claims 11-17, 19-25, and 27-32 are pending.
2. The drawings were received on 01/04/2006. These drawings are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 11-17, 19-25, and 27-32** are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 14 is allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method for processing images in a digital camera wherein the digital camera includes an image storage device having primary and secondary storage areas, comprising the steps of: generating from the raw image, including employing a second quantizing step independent of the first quantizing step, *a second compressed image data set which supplies at least a least significant bit missing in the first compressed image data set for combination with the first compressed image data set* to reproduce substantially the entire image at a second, higher quality level, the second compressed image data set being stored in the secondary storage area.

Claims 11-13 and 15-17 are allowed because they are dependent on claim 14.

Claim 22 is allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a system of processing images in a digital camera wherein the digital camera includes primary and secondary storage areas, comprising: means for generating from the raw image, including employing a second quantizing step independent of the first quantizing step, *a second compressed image data*

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set which supplies at least a least significant bit missing in the first compressed image data set for combination with the first compressed image data set to reproduce substantially the entire image at a second, higher quality level, the second compressed image data set being stored in the secondary storage area.

Claims 19-21 and 23-25 are allowed because they are dependent on claim 22.

Claim 29 is allowed because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a system for processing images in a digital camera comprising: a processing unit configured to generate a second compressed image data set, including employing a second quantizing set independent of the first quantizing step, wherein *the second data set supplies at least a least significant bit missing in the first data set for combination with the first data set* is to reproduce substantially the entire image at a second higher quality level, the second compressed image data set being stored in the secondary storage area if space is available.

Claims 27-28 and 30-32 are allowed because they are dependent on claim 29.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carramah J. Quiett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7316. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJQ
March 17, 2006



NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER